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DEBATE  
*IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS*  
ON  
A MOTION  
relative to  
VACCINATION.

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DEBATE  
IN  
THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,  
(*Wednesday, July 2, 1806*),  
ON  
A MOTION,  
MADE BY  
*THE RIGHT HON. LORD HENRY PETTY,*  
IN ORDER TO REMOVE  
EXISTING PREJUDICES AND DOUBTS  
RELATIVE TO  
VACCINATION.

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# D E B A T E,

&c.

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LORD HENRY PETTY\* addressed the House in the following appropriate and elegant speech: “ I rise, Sir, in pursuance of the notice I gave to the House a few days ago, to call your attention to a subject of general importance. It is indeed a subject which is totally unconnected with all party principles. It, however, concerns the welfare, health, and existence of a large portion of his Majesty’s subjects, and, therefore, is well deserving of the consideration, and support, of Parliament. I mean, Sir, that

\* This nobleman, the youngest son of the late illustrious Marquis of Lansdown, is Chancellor of the Exchequer, and represents the learned University of Cambridge, and has shewn himself equally great, whether we view him as a profound statesman, or philanthropist. Graced with all the fascinating powers of an exalted eloquence, upon this occasion he excited *uncommon interest*; and ministerial men, and the opposition, were equally unanimous in giving him loud plaudits of admiration by very frequently reiterating the cry of *Hear!*

very remarkable discovery, and the practice which has followed it, of Inoculation of the Cow-Pox, commonly called *Vaccine Inoculation*, as a substitute for the loathsome Small Pox, an evil which has spread a dreadful desolation throughout the whole world.

“ In submitting this subject to your notice, I shall not enter minutely into an investigation, or inquiry, as to the gradual progress which the practice of this inoculation has made among the several nations of Europe. I shall briefly mention it to be the discovery of an eminent and most celebrated physician, who for thirty years has devoted his whole mind and attention to promote its salutary effects amongst mankind. The knowledge of this important subject first commenced in the year 1777\*. So early did it strike Dr. JENNER, a name which has become well known amongst all the nations in Europe, and indeed throughout the whole world. That gentleman, by devoting the whole of his time, attention, and labours, to this subject, has, by a slow and gradual progress, brought the practice of his valuable discovery into very great reputation. It was, however, in the year 1796, when he first thought of extending its benefits by inocula-

\* Vide petition of Dr. Jenner, p. 143 of “*Vaccinæ Vindicia*,” presented to the House of Commons in 1802, in which the learned Doctor states the progressive steps he took in the discovery.

tion.\* To that illustrious character, therefore, we are entitled to ascribe our being likely to get rid of the Small-pox, one of the most dangerous calamities that mankind has ever been afflicted with.

“ In the year 1798†, Dr. JENNER having ascertained its advantages by sufficient experiments, it was extended, and soon after‡ submitted to the consideration of this House, and under its sanction, and chiefly owing to its patronage, it was established throughout England.

“ In the year 1799§, this discovery gained

\* Vide p. 240 of “ *Vaccinæ Vindicia*.”

† Dr. Jenner’s first publication appeared in the year 1798. Vide p. 240 of “ *Vaccinæ Vindicia*.”

‡ In the year 1802, Dr. Jenner’s petition was presented to the House of Commons (vide p. 143 of “ *Vaccinæ Vindicia*”), in consequence of which he then received from Parliament the remuneration of 10,000*l*.

§ In the beginning of the year 1799, Dr. WATERHOUSE, who, from his exertions in the cause of Vaccination, has been honoured with the title of “ the Jenner of America,” received a copy of Dr. Jenner’s “ *Inquiry*.” Struck with the importance of the subject, and the incalculable benefit which might accrue to his country from its adoption, he immediately communicated to the public a sketch of the discovery, which was most favourably received by the then president, Mr. Adams. Dr. Waterhouse, being supplied with matter from England, first inoculated four of his own children. The succeeding president, Mr. Jefferson, gave the practice his utmost assistance. The following is a copy of a letter sent by that illustrious president to the “ Jenner of America.”



its way over the whole continent of America,

“ SIR,

“ I received last night, and have read with great satisfaction, your pamphlet on the subject of the Kine-pock ; and pray you to accept my thanks for the communication of it. I had before attended to your publications on the subject in the newspapers ; and took much interest in the result of the experiments you were making.

“ Every friend of humanity must look with pleasure on this discovery, by which one evil more is likely to be withdrawn from the condition of man ; and must contemplate the possibility, that future improvements and discoveries may still more and more lessen the catalogue of evils.

“ In this line of proceeding, *you deserve well of your country* ; and I pray you, Sir, accept my portion of the tribute due to you, with assurances of the high consideration and respect with which I am, Sir,

“ Your most obedient humble servant,

“ THOMAS JEFFERSON.”

Such are the exalted notions of this great man, that he thought a physician might communicate useful medical intelligence in a common newspaper, without degrading himself, or his profession.

Whether this opinion is well or ill-founded, I shall not myself presume to determine. It is, however, only justice to say, that this letter of the President of the United States breathes the spirit of philanthropy,—the spirit of Washington ; and, that his vigilant attention to the welfare and happiness of the people, proves him worthy to fill the station of his illustrious predecessor.

A letter from Dr. Coxe, dated Nov. 24th, 1801, announces, “ that with matter received from Mr. Jefferson, he had succeeded in establishing Vaccine Inoculation at Philadelphia,” which was published in the American Daily Advertiser. In the same paper Dr. Coxe afterwards published another letter, dated

and even amongst the Indians, it has been

Dec. 15th, 1801, wherein he states, “that he had inoculated many patients with vaccine matter with the happiest success, and afterwards submitted them to variolous contagion, both in the form of inoculation, and in the natural way; which they resisted.

“He inoculated one child with the Cow-pox, on whose mother the Small-pox broke out the day before. The child was with her mother during the disease. On the eighth day from the insertion of Vaccine matter, Dr. Coxe inoculated her in three places with variolous matter from her mother. The consequence was only three small pustules, unaccompanied by any general affection of the system. Three weeks had elapsed since the child had been exposed to the natural infection; yet she had perfectly escaped.”

Dr. Coxe expresses a confidence, “that the practice will soon spread far and wide;” and which his own conduct, and his own example, of inoculating the poor gratuitously, and distributing Vaccine matter amongst medical practitioners, will tend greatly to promote.

He observes, “that his own experience serves to augment the vast collection of facts on the important point, of the Cow-pox proving a sure preventive of the Small-pox: and to establish the certainty, that a change of climate does not effect its beneficial influence.”

He sincerely congratulates his fellow-citizens on the introduction of this invaluable blessing amongst them. He is confident it requires but to be known, in order to ensure its speedy diffusion in every part of the world. He concludes with asserting, that millions yet unborn will have cause to bless the *immortal* name of Jenner.

He observes, that the vast advantages of this practice begin to be duly appreciated. He anticipates its final triumph over the Small-pox, in Philadelphia, in the short space of a few

practised with a degree of success fully answer-

months; after which, he firmly trusts, this ferocious destroyer of the human race will be known by name only.

A letter received from Dr. Coxe by his father, a gentleman of great respectability residing in London, states, "that after inoculating his own child with the Cow-pox, he has several times inoculated him with Small-pox matter; but to no purpose."

To the uncommon ardour of Dr. Coxe, and to his unwearied exertions, Philadelphia is beholden for the establishment of this beneficial practice; and we shall soon see, that his laudable endeavours have been seconded by the most experienced practitioners of that city.

Dr. Rush, in a letter to Dr. Lettsom, dated March 15th, 1802, says, "The publications upon Vaccination, from England, have contributed very much to spread the knowledge of that invaluable discovery through the United States. We have adopted it in Philadelphia, and with universal success. The difficulty of obtaining Vaccine matter is the only circumstance which has prevented its being adopted in every part of our country. This difficulty is lessening daily. The practice, in a year or two, I have no doubt, will be universal."

Dr. Redman, the venerable father of physic in the college of Philadelphia, ardently embraces the new discovery. Under such auspices, Vaccine Inoculation must increase and prosper.

Dr. Waterhouse also communicates, in the public papers, the pleasing intelligence, that Vaccine Inoculation is now extending its salutiferous powers to the remotest borders of the new world. In the month of December 1802, a grand embassy of certain tribes of the Indians came to the city of Washington, in order themselves to be vaccinated, and to learn the practice, while the Congress was sitting, by whose injunction and expense Vaccination was performed on them. The government of the United States continues to do every thing in its power to promote the comfort, happiness, and civilization of that nation; and to ameliorate their condition.



ing the most sanguine expectations of him who at first suggested it.

Washington and Adams had already supplied them with the plough and the loom, causing them to be instructed in agriculture, manufactures, and commerce. It was reserved for Jefferson, to supply them with a prophylactic against the Small-pox, which commits such dreadful ravages among their tribes; and to instruct them in the divine art of Vaccination.

(Vide Waterhouse's Hist. of the Prospect of exterminating the Small-pox, or Hist. of the Kine-pock, 1st Pt. 1800, 2d Pt. 1802; also Ring's Treatise, vol. ii. p. 760.)

To shew the present state of Vaccination in America, I need only give the following extract of a letter from their present illustrious President.

*Extract of a letter from President JEFFERSON to Dr. JENNER.*

“ May 14, 1806.

“ I was among the early converts to Vaccination, and took a zealous part in recommending it to my countrymen. I avail myself of this occasion of rendering *you* my portion of the tribute of gratitude due to *you* from the whole human family. Medicine has never before produced any single improvement of such utility. Harvey's discovery of the circulation of the blood was a beautiful addition to our knowledge of the animal economy. But on a review of the practice of medicine before and since that epoch, I do not see any great amelioration which has been derived from that discovery. *You* have erased from the calendar of human afflictions one of its greatest evils. *Your's* is the comfortable reflection, that mankind can never forget that *you* have lived. Future nations will know from report only, that the loathsome Small-pox has existed, and by *you* has been extirpated. Accept the most fervent wishes for *your* health and happiness; and assurances of the greatest respect and consideration.

“ THOMAS JEFFERSON.”

“ In 1800, it was adopted upon the continent ;\*  
and,

\* France, in particular, forgetting national jealousy, and individual envy, accepted the boon with alacrity. Even during war, our government allowed our countryman, Dr. Woodville, upon invitation, to go over to France to vaccinate ; and this was done in the year 1800. Speedily after, institutions and societies were formed for its extension, under the sanction of the government ; rewards were bestowed on the most active Vaccinists, and such progress was made, that, even so early as the month of November 1802, the central committee, in their annual report, declare, that there has not been one example to prove, that amongst *ten thousand* individuals inoculated with the Cow-pox, a single one has been infected with the Small-pox, although living in the midst of the contagion. In a following report they declare, that all which has been asserted of Vaccination is now confirmed ; that they are perfectly convinced of the reality of the advantages ascribed to it ; and that they cannot conclude without returning “ a just tribute of acknowledgment to Dr. Jenner, being fully persuaded, that he will hereafter be remembered among those who have reflected the greatest honour on science, and rendered the most important service to mankind.” In their report of the year 12 (1804) they say, that the success of vaccination is established by them in *one hundred thousand* facts. (Medical and Physical Journal, May 1805, p. 419.)

“ It has often been asserted, and is generally believed, that Vaccination is more highly esteemed, and more generally practised, in almost every other country, than in this where it was first discovered. In France, it is cultivated with unremitting ardour ; and all the energies of government are called forth in support of the practice.

“ Its propagation is there encouraged by something more than barren patronage and empty names. It is there considered

as a national concern. The Minister of the Interior has instituted a Society, over which he himself presides; and under his auspices, upwards of *sixty thousand* human beings have been secured from the ravages of the Small-pox, within the space of *three months*." (Medical and Physical Journal, May 1805).

Dr. De Carro long ago said, "it had excited the astonishment of foreigners, that the Parliament of three united kingdoms, which granted ten thousand pounds to Dr. Jenner for discovering the practice of Vaccination, had done nothing towards putting the practice into execution." No longer being deaf to the calls of humanity, let us at least obey the dictates of policy; and pursue such measures as are calculated to promote population. I here subjoin a translation of the plan of the Society for the Extermination of the Small-pox in France. *Fas est et ab hoste doceri.*

" MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR.

" *Society for the Extermination of the Small-pox in France, by means of Vaccination.*

" Letter of the Minister to the Prefects.

" *Paris, 14 Germinal, An 12.*

" I invited you, Citizen Prefect, by my circular letter of last Prairial, to promote by all the means in your power Vaccine Inoculation; the immense advantages of which, for the increase of population, and the welfare of mankind, are so completely demonstrated.

" The Prefects in many departments are already impressed with a zeal worthy of the highest eulogiums, to fulfil in this respect the paternal views of Government; by establishing Committees of Vaccination, and organizing the practice of this salutary art, in the different districts submitted to their care. It is to second their generous efforts, to strengthen them, and to regulate them by a general impulse, that I again call your attention to this important subject.



“ The Central Committee of Vaccination, whose report has reflected so much light upon that novel species of practice, have expressed a wish, that a new Society for propagating Vaccine Inoculation should be established, for the purpose of accomplishing the extermination of the Small-pox in France,—an object of the highest concern ; the practicability of which, already self-evident, was, thanks to their zeal, still farther confirmed by striking examples and undeniable proofs. I am anxious to gratify this wish, which had been equally expressed by the National Institute. Men distinguished by their rank and talents have united themselves ; forming a new society, the plan of which I now address to you. Of this society, the actual Members of the Central Committee of Vaccination, from their experience and their devotion to the cause, ought to constitute a part. I now invite you to share their labours, and to second their exertions.

“ It belongs more particularly to the Prefects, to extend through the departments the measures which the Society has adopted ; to the execution of which I am ready to dedicate all my attention,

“ The advantages of Vaccine Inoculation are so obvious and so easily attained, that the most certain method of making them known is, to enable every class of citizens to estimate their just value. It is, in fact, the peculiar nature of this discovery to work its own way, and to propagate itself readily by the evidence of its utility, and of the benefits it confers. Being exempt from every kind of inconvenience, and, when once performed, not subjecting the patient to any expense, we are naturally prejudiced in favour of the practice ; while the epidemic Small-pox, so frequently recurring, and sparing, in the most populous neighbourhoods, when it rages in all its fury, those who have been inoculated with the Cow-pock, offers a satisfactory demonstration of its efficacy to every observer.

“ It is necessary to apply ourselves particularly to this practice, in order to give it new life ; and to multiply, under the

immediate inspection of the people, the opportunities of judging of its advantage. By recommending it to the institutors of lycæums, the managers of religious establishments, the proprietors of manufactories, and the governors of workhouses, who employ a great number of children, you will set our cities a salutary example.

“ The children who are supported by the state, when vaccinated, and sent into the country, will also serve to make known the advantages of the new inoculation ; unless, through the confidence of certain families in the skill of the faculty, or the zeal and good sense of some of the more intelligent inhabitants, it is already propagated there.

“ The establishment of midwives, who are educated in the hospitals of Paris, in different parts of the country, the Juries of Medicine, and the Sisters of Charity dispersed through the several communes, will prove still more the means of propagating the knowledge and practice of Vaccination among the people. But above all, we must exert our utmost endeavours to enlighten the public opinion ; for which purpose, all the facts, and all the results of experiments, should be carefully collected. The most striking instances of preservation, observed during the epidemic Small-pox, should be published ; and if errors present themselves, or *ignorance* presume to make *false allegations*, the former should be carefully corrected, the latter *speedily* and *forcibly refuted*. A great number of results would contribute to fix the public opinion.

“ The natural effect of propagating Vaccination must be, to render the Small-pox more and more rare. By keeping an annual register of the continual decrease of the number attacked with that disease, and of the proportion of its victims in our Bills of Mortality, we shall produce general conviction ; and no cause will any longer retard the adoption of a practice, which is known to be the source of so great a benefit.

“ This is the object we have in view ; and, in order to attain it, we must dispute every inch of ground with the enemy whom

we wish to exterminate, by a wise combination of efforts; and by an union of measures which embrace every part of France. It appears to me necessary, that the example already set by some Prefects, should be followed by all; and that the course they pursue is calculated to obtain uniform evidence upon every point, and unquestionable results from every quarter.

“ This end will be accomplished by establishing in every department a Committee of Vaccination, composed of the most intelligent medical practitioners, and associating with them citizens distinguished by their rank, fortune, and character. The ministers of the Gospel will be useful in these associations, on account of their influence. Many examples have taught us, what services they may render on this occasion.

“ We must commit to the disposal of every committee, in the towns where they are formed, one of the halls of the most frequented religious houses; with all the means necessary for constantly keeping up the practice of Vaccination. In towns of a sub-prefecture, committees of districts should be established, to correspond with the committee of the department; or we may supply the want of this measure by appointing one or two of the most intelligent physicians, who shall be associated with the committee of the department.

“ In order to extend Vaccination through the country, one or two officers of health, in each canton, should be charged by the Prefect to vaccinate the poor gratuitously; or, if circumstances require it, the Prefect should appoint professors of the art, who shall be directed to propagate Inoculation through the country, at stated times. Such resources should be combined as situations admit, and opportunities offer; and those should be preferred which promise the greatest advantage.

“ The instructions and advice which may be deemed necessary, and the supplies of vaccine matter, shall be procured from the Committee of the Society; who shall answer every demand without delay.

“ The Prefects shall address to me, every month, the result



of the measures they adopt; and inform me of such medical practitioners, and zealous citizens, as shall distinguish themselves by their success, and their devotion to this cause; they shall also send to the Society the observations they collect. I recommend to their attention the arrangement of the tables, a model of which is annexed. They will take care to send me two copies.

“ Such are the means, Citizen Prefect, which I have thought it my duty to propose; the success of which, in my opinion, will be the more certain in proportion as they approach to the plan adopted by the Society. No object calls more loudly for your attention; it is one of the dearest interests of the state, and a certain mode of augmenting our population. By employing all the means in your power to enlighten the public opinion, by exciting the solicitude of families, and removing those obstacles which the fear of a trifling expense too often opposes to the greatest benefit, you will manifest to all the citizens, even in the lowest ranks of society, the advantage of the new practice, which secures their preservation.

“ On my part I will second your efforts, I will support you with all the power of government; and, confident of your zeal, and that of the Society which devotes itself to the accomplishment of this good work in which we are all engaged, I doubt not but we shall, in a few years, *annihilate the Small Pox in France*, as we have already annihilated the plague, of which no traces are now to be found, but in obscure or insulated cantons, or in the page of history.

“ I have the honour to be, &c. “ CHAPTAL.”

“ *The Plan of the Society for the Extermination of the Small-pox in France, by means of Vaccination.*

“ The numerous experiments instituted in France, during the space of four years, prove, in the most incontestible manner, that the Cow-pock is a security against the Small-pox, by a process as certain in its effects, as it is mild and simple in its operation. Its success is established by more than a *hundred thousand* facts, verified by the Central Committee.

“ During the four years that this committee have pursued, with no less zeal than impartiality, the progress of Vaccination, not a *single fact* has occurred that could shake the public confidence. It has been proved, that all which has been written to the contrary, has been the result of *ignorance* or of *falsehood*.

“ We are now endeavouring to employ the means of diffusing the benefits of this salutary practice; and, by bringing it, as we hope, into general use, utterly to banish the Small-pox. Such is the object of this new Society forming in Paris, under the auspices of the Minister of the Interior; and which, already fortified by all the means Government can submit to its disposal, wishes to unite and concentrate every kind of knowledge, talent, reputation, and authority, in one point. The annexed ordinance of the Minister of the Interior will explain the plan and organization of the Society.

“ The extreme importance of this design, and the incalculable advantages which will result from its execution, leave no room to doubt, that every citizen, and every friend of humanity and of his country, will applaud the undertaking, and be eager to share our labours. Innumerable facts have demonstrated, that Vaccination shields those who have submitted to it from the attack of the Small-pox; and in the mean time, it is ascertained by proofs equally incontestible, that by multiplying it as occasion requires, we may banish this contagion from the most populous neighbourhood; and even from the precincts of a town or a city. Hospitals containing a thousand children, or more, have been thus preserved from an epidemic Small-pox, by vaccinating those who had not undergone the disease. In some districts, where the epidemic Small-pox had appeared, it was confined to, and extinguished in, the house where it first broke out, by vaccinating all the infants in the neighbourhood.

“ To conclude: we have seen the infection, when spread over a large tract of country, arrested in its course at the gates of cities, where the inhabitants in general had been inoculated with the Cow-pock. These memorable occurrences give us



room to hope, that by propagating Vaccination in every direction, and rendering the practice general, we may accomplish the extermination of the Small-pox in France. This is the final object of our endeavours, the practicability of which is evident ; and if we all cordially and strenuously unite in its execution, the French nation will set a great and glorious example to the world.”

*“ The Ordinance of the Minister of the Interior, concerning the Formation of a Central Society of Vaccination.*

“ The Minister of the Interior considering, that the advantages of Vaccination have been sufficiently ascertained, by the numerous experiments made, or collected, by the Central Committee established at Paris, and by the National Institute ; that this method, already practised with success in almost every part of France, only requires a regular and uniform mode of propagation, in order to obtain every degree of extension of which it is susceptible, has issued the following decree :

“ 1. There shall be at Paris, near to the Minister of the Interior, a Central Society of Vaccination, of which the Minister shall be President.

“ 2. The Members of the Society are,  
Delaplace, Chancellor of the Senate ; Lacepede, Grand Chancellor of the Legion of Honour ; Fontanes, President of the Legislative Corps ; Portalis, Fourcroy, Regnault (de S. Jean d’Angeley), Counsellors of State ; Bertholet, Senator ; La Rochefoucault Liancourt ; Corvisart, Physician of Government ; Coulomb, Secretary Gen. of the Minister of the Interior ; Thouret, Director of the School of Medicine ; J. J. Leroux, Professor of the School of Medicine ; Mongenot, and Jadelot, Physicians of the Hospital des Enfants ; Marin, Surgeon of the Lyceum ; Doussin Dubreuil, Guillotin, Salmade, Delaroche, Doctors of Physic ; Parfait, Member of the Central Bureau of Admission to the Hospitals ; Husson, Physician of the Hospital of Vaccination ; Hallé, Huzard, Tessier, Cuvier, Delambre,

Parmentier, Pinel, Degerando, Members of the National Institute: Duquesnoy, Delessert, Members of the Council Gen. of Hospitals; Delasteyrie; Coste, Physician of Invalids; Barbier Neuville, Chief of Division to the Minister of the Interior.

“ 3. There shall be formed in the bosom of the Society, a Committee, consisting of sixteen members, and the Secretary of the Society.

“ 4. The Members of the Committee are Citizens Thouret, Corvisart, Pinel, Leroux, Hallé, Huzard, Guillotin, Salmade, Parfait, Delaroche, Marin, Jadelot, Delasteyrie, Doussin Doubriel, Mongenot, and Husson.

“ 5. The Secretary of the Society shall also be that of the Committee. The Minister appoints Cit. Husson to this situation.

“ 6. The Prefects of the Departments shall maintain a regular correspondence upon all subjects relative to Vaccination, and to epidemic and epizootic Small-pox; two copies of which shall be transmitted to the Minister, one for himself, and the other for the Society. The Prefects who shall be at Paris upon leave, may assist at the sittings of the Society.

“ 7. Instructions shall be sent to the Prefects, with which they shall be requested to conform, as far as their situation will permit. The plans they have already adopted, for propagating Vaccination in their departments, shall be transmitted to the Minister, in order that, if necessary, and after the opinion of their Society has been taken, they may be sanctioned with his approbation.

“ 8. An annual report shall be made to the Society, at its public meeting, upon the labours undertaken in France for propagating Vaccination; and upon the registers that shall be sent by the departments.

“ 9. Testimonials shall be granted, and rewards given, to those persons who have displayed the greatest zeal in propagating Vaccination.”

This arret is dated the 14th of Germinal, and the 12th year of the Republic; and signed Chaptal, Minister of the Interior.

*“ Regulations adopted by the Minister of the Interior, for the Committee of the Central Society of Vaccination.*

“ 1. The meetings of the Committee formed in the bosom of the Society shall be held every Friday ; and last from three to five hours.

“ 2. The Committee shall meet oftener, if necessary, on receiving notice from the President of the Society.

“ 3. The Committee shall correspond with the Prefects of departments ; and render an account every week to the Minister, and every month to the Society, of the facts relative to Vaccination, which are contained in that correspondence.

“ 4. The President of the Committee is to be chosen by ballot, and by a majority of votes. He shall continue in office six months.

“ 5. The Secretary is to have the charge of all correspondence that is carried on in the name of the Committee ; to take copies of the registers sent by the Prefects ; to answer every thing relative to the science, and to send out supplies of Cow-pock matter. He is to present, at every meeting of the Committee, a report of the labours of the week, to keep the minutes, to draw up the verbal process, and attend without delay to all letters and memoirs. He is to be the organ between the Committee and the Minister.

“ 6. The Secretary shall also answer all questions on the part of the administration of the Committees of the departments ; but the answers on this subject shall be submitted to the general meeting of the Society ; and signed, if possible, by the Minister, who is President of the Society.

“ 7. There shall be a general meeting of the Society every month, in which the Secretary shall make a report upon the whole correspondence, the progress of the new practice, the improvements that may be expected, and the rewards that are to be conferred.

“ I hereby certify, that this is a faithful copy of the original, entered in the verbal process of the meeting held by the Minister



and, under the auspices of our commander in chief, it extended to the shores of the Mediterranean\*. Afterwards, from its favourable re-

of the Interior, at Paris, on the 18th of Germinal, and the 12th year.

“HUSSON, Secretary.

“N.B. The correspondence, and applications for Cow-pock matter, are to be addressed under cover to the Minister of the Interior, “Au Cit. Husson, Docteur en Medecine, Rue et “Ecole de Medecine, Paris.”

Here we discover nothing of cold indifference and apathy, but one zealous, uniform, patriotic effort, to exterminate the Small-pox, the most destructive of all diseases. England soon followed this noble example, by the establishment, in London, of a *Royal Jennerian Society*.—Vide its admirable “Address to the British Nation.”

\* In the summer of 1800, Dr. Marshal and Dr. Walker (Report, p. 64) left England, for the express purpose of introducing the Cow-pox into the Mediterranean. They began at Gibraltar, where the practice underwent a severe trial, the garrison then living on salt provisions, in consequence of the plague having stopped the supplies from Barbary; and the thermometer frequently standing 90 deg. Notwithstanding this, the *soldiers under vaccination performed their regimental duties as usual*; not one case occurred where medicine was required, nor was any application requisite to the inoculated part. Proceeding along the Mediterranean, the practice was introduced at Malta, where, it seems, the ravages by Small-pox had always been dreadful. Here an hospital was established by the governor, called the *Jennerian Institution*. At the time Dr. Marshal was at Malta, the armament there consisted of one hundred king's ships, and about the same number of transports, on board of which a large army was embarked. Mr. Ring justly remarks (p. 567) had the Small-pox happened to rage through such a fleet, in such a latitude, what havoc must ensue! It was re-

ception in the kingdom of Naples, and most of the Italian States\*, it gradually made its progress northwards. In Russia†, Prus-

ceived with enthusiasm in Sicily, where the Small-pox had been, if possible, even more fatal than at Malta. Hospitals were established at Palermo and also at Naples, and the salutary effects of the Jennerian discovery was soon felt over the whole of Italy.

\* In the Italian republic alone, Dr. Sacco and others had vaccinated upwards of *seventy thousand*, by the end of the year 1802 (Ring, p. 1011.); and this number has since increased, under that active inoculator, to *four hundred thousand*. The number inoculated under Dr. Marshal's immediate direction was upwards of *ten thousand*; *about two thousand of whom were afterwards subjected to every possible means of infection by Small-pox, but without effect.* (Report, p. 68.)

† In October 1801, when the Court was at Moscow, on account of the coronation of the present emperor, Mr. Lind-strohm, surgeon to his Imperial Majesty, successfully inoculated a child with vaccine matter received on a thread from Dr. Friese, of Breslaw.

The Empress Dowager, who zealously patronizes this beneficial practice, conferred on the child the name of *Vaccinoff*, in addition to her original name; caused her to be conveyed in one of her own coaches to Petersburg, and to be placed in the Foundling Hospital, as a source of future inoculations; and settled on her a provision for life.

She has also sent a valuable diamond ring to Dr. Jenner, by the hands of Lord St. Helens; another to Dr. Friese; and a letter to Dr. Jenner, written by her own hand, of which the following is a translation:—

“ SIR,

“ The practice of Vaccine Inoculation in England having been attended with the happiest success, which is well attested,

sia\*, and Denmark † it was eagerly embraced ;  
but I could wish to call the attention of the  
House

I have eagerly imitated that example, by introducing it into the charitable establishments under my direction.

“ My endeavours having perfectly answered my expectations, I feel a pleasure in reporting their success ; and in testifying my acknowledgments to him, who has rendered such a signal service to humanity.

“ This motive induces me to offer you, Sir, the ring sent herewith, as a testimony of the sentiments of esteem and regard with which I am,

Your's affectionately,

“ *Paulowsky, August 10, 1802.*

“ MARY.”

By a letter from Dr. Friese I learn, that Vaccine Inoculation is now established throughout the Russian dominions. This is owing to the distinguished patronage and protection it has received :

Magnum reginæ nomen obumbrat.

Vaccine virus, which Mr. Harder, surgeon-major of Revel, received from Mr. Ring, proved successful ; and it appears by a letter received from him by Dr. Jenner, that from this source the nobles who possess estates in the neighbourhood, had inoculated many thousands of peasants with their own hands. *Ring, p. 209.*

\* His Prussian Majesty, says Mr. Ring, was the first crowned head, that submitted his own offspring to Vaccine Inoculation ; he also followed the example of the King of Naples, by establishing a Vaccine Institution in the capital of each part of his dominions. Dr. Friese, who has lately favoured me with a second account of the progress of Vaccination in Silesia, is the physician appointed to superintend the latter. The following is the letter which I received from him on this subject :—

“ DEAR SIR,

*Breslaw, June 9th, 1805.*

“ The unremitting zeal with which you have endeavoured to promote the Jennerian discovery in your country, and the in-

† *Denmark]* Vide p. 420. for this Note.



terest you have so philanthropically shewn, on hearing of its first providential introduction into Silesia, will, I hope, excuse me, when I take the liberty to trouble you with some further account of the successful progress which that invaluable prophylactic has since made, in this part of the Prussian dominions. Should the following Report be deemed acceptable to the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal, I shall feel myself highly gratified, by adding, as a foreigner, some further proofs to the evidence, that Vaccination, when properly managed, every where proves a permanent security against the Small-pox.

“ I could not but be astonished when I read over the pamphlets of Messrs. Goldson and Squirrel. I apprehend the alarm they excite, will come at too late a period for them to flatter themselves with much success. At any rate, I am convinced the new doctrine, which they promulgate, will find but few proselytes in Germany; where both the governments and the people are more and more sensible of the advantages of the new practice; and where similar equivocal arguments, advanced some years ago by the late Dr. Herz, Mr. Ehrman of Frankfort, and Dr. Matterschka of Prague, have been silenced by time and experience.

“ You remember, perhaps, by my former letter, that there was also an adversary of some celebrity in Silesia, who rose up against the Vaccine Inoculation, at its first introduction into this country. His name is Mogalla, a physician known in Germany by his very valuable writings on the several mineral waters and bathing-places of Silesia, and by some other works on the veterinary art; but I have the pleasure to inform you, that this respectable practitioner has been *converted* by reason and evidence into one of the warmest friends and promoters of Vaccination. I must add, that it was particularly by his assistance, that we are now in possession of two public vaccine institutions at Breslaw and Glogaw; which are to be regarded as the centres from which the practice is spread, and continues to be spread, through every quarter of the province.

“ His Majesty has been graciously pleased to appoint me not only a Counsellor of the Medical Department of Sillesia, and a Director of the Royal Institution at Breslaw; but he has also honoured me with the superintendency of this new branch of the healing art, in the department of the Royal Chamber in this capital. The establishment of the Vaccine Institution has been so expeditious, that I found myself enabled to begin my operations on the 14th of April 1804, with cow-pox matter, sent to me by my friend Dr. De Carro; from the very same source of which you have spoken in the Medical and Physical Journal for Nov. 1804.

“ I have the pleasure to subjoin a statement of the number of persons inoculated at the Royal Institution of Breslaw, from its establishment till the present day; as well as a general abstract of vaccinations performed by different medical men in all the subordinate districts of the department of Breslaw, during the year 1804, from the annual reports. I hope you will see by these lists, that the progress of the Jennerian Inoculation, during the course of the last year, has by far surpassed those of all the preceding, since the year 1800. I do not yet know all the particulars of the results of Vaccination in the second department of the Royal Chamber at Glogaw; but I am informed by private letters, that the number of persons vaccinated there is more than 10,000; the total number of inoculations successfully performed in the last year amounting to nearly 34,000; besides some thousands more, who have been vaccinated by surgeons of the army.

“ Government have pursued measures well calculated to promote Vaccination. I have been charged with the commission of writing not only a popular publication on it, which is ordered to be printed, and distributed among all classes of people; but also a brief instruction for the physicians and surgeons of the province; wherein I have endeavoured to give an account of this new discovery; and also to acquaint them with the genuine and spurious pustule, and the best method of inoculating, and treating that disease.



“ Another measure not less favourable for promoting uninterrupted vaccination at the central institution of this city, is the grant of a sum of two hundred rix-dollars annually, destined for small premiums at a dollar each, to be distributed among children of the lower classes; who, for the sake of such a trifle, willingly comply with the rules and conditions of the inoculators. It must be particularly ascribed to this encouragement, that the institution has been enabled constantly to provide not only all Silesian inoculators, but also several of those of the adjacent countries, with fresh and genuine Cow-pock matter; having disseminated during the last year 1312 armed ivory lancets of Dr. De Carro's invention.

“ Our mutual friend of Vienna has informed you, that several German clergymen have participated the labour of promulgating the new practice; and I have the pleasure to acquaint you, that there are many in this country likewise, who partake in this laudable design. I even venture to assert, that there are some country clergymen in our province, who are so well acquainted with vaccination both in theory and practice, and have conducted it with so much care and skill, as justly to deserve the name of benefactors of their parishioners. In order to acknowledge the merits of these respectable divines, and at the same time to excite a laudable emulation among all the medical men of the province, Government have granted to several of those who have distinguished themselves in this line, small premiums from thirty to fifty rix-dollars.

“ I find by the Medical and Physical Journal for March 1805, that Mr. Goldson is indefatigable in promulgating his cases of Small-pox subsequent to Vaccination; having just published a second treatise on that subject. I have perused the last numbers of the before mentioned Journal, as well as several other refutations written on this occasion. I wonder that there are people who think the punishment you have inflicted on Mr. Goldson, in your very able Answer to his production, too severe; nay, that there are some anonymous writers, who

pretend Mr. Goldson's pamphlet is entitled to the most serious attention of the faculty. For my own part, I cannot find that the evidence of cases related by him, in order to prove that Vaccination affords no permanent security against the infection of the Small-pox, is so clear and satisfactory as they pretend. I shall have an opportunity of communicating to you some similar cases which happened in Silesia; but I assure you, that after due inquiry, this could not in the least degree alarm the public, who, on the contrary, have every day had the satisfaction of seeing that the Cow-pock is the only powerful and permanent preventive of that dreadful scourge of mankind the Small-pox; which, in the course of the last year, destroyed several thousands of the rising generation, while those who had regularly undergone the operation remained secure from its malign influence and its dreadful contagion.

“ A few mistakes indeed have lately been committed here in the practice of Vaccination. I shall mention one which occurred in the year 1802, at Brieg, a city six German miles from this place. Mr. Taber, a surgeon, inoculated several children from the arm of a child, in whom the pustules were already approaching to the *scabbing* state. He confesses he had at that time never seen the process of a genuine pustule. This occasioned him to mistake the ulcers produced in the arms of these children for the true kind; and to transfer from them a spurious and purulent matter to thirty-one persons, thinking they would all be perfectly secured by this operation. The Small-pox, however, making its appearance at Brieg the next summer, three of the children were attacked by the disorder. At length perceiving his error, and having in the mean time acquired a sufficient knowledge of the true progress of Vaccination, he inoculated the rest of his patients with genuine matter; in consequence of this, they all took the disease in the regular way, and resisted the Small-pox; which then committed great ravages among those children whose parents had refused the benefits of Vaccination.

“ I cannot omit stating three other cases of supposed Vaccination, in children of one family, in a village in this neighbourhood, which greatly resemble those in Fulwood’s Rents and at Kensington. One child, a girl of four years, was attacked four weeks after by the confluent Small-pox. I saw her on the 11th day of the disease; and, as the physician who had performed the inoculation, and accompanied me, confessed he had not had an opportunity of observing its progress, I immediately tried a second Vaccination on the two remaining boys, who had at this time very large and irregular scabs on their arms, remaining from the first operation. The inoculation succeeded, and on the sixth day true flat vesicles appeared, with the common depression in the centre; but on the seventh day they both became feverish, and on the ninth, a small crop of distinct variolous eruptions broke out. The father, though a common country labourer, reproached himself for having delayed a second Vaccination of his children, who, by rubbing and scratching the pustules had entirely destroyed the progress of the first.

“ Accept my best thanks for the honour you have done me in the second volume of your excellent work, and believe me to be,

“ With great respect,

“ Dear Sir,

“ Your obedient humble servant,

“ D. FRIESE.”

Private individuals may not be competent to form a decisive opinion of the political conduct of the King of Prussia, for want of the necessary information; but we are all competent to determine, that the paternal care and solicitude which he has manifested on this occasion, to avert the horrors of the Small-pox from his dominions, entitle him to the gratitude of his people, and stamp on him the character of a *patriot* king.



House in a particular manner, to the success which it has met with in the dominions of the House of Austria.\*

† *Denmark*] The Vaccine Inoculation was practised at Copenhagen in the summer of 1802. This innovation excited the attention of Government; and a Committee of the first medical men was instituted, to inquire into the exact merits of this discovery. A Jennerian Society was then formed, over which the celebrated anatomist Winslow presided, where gratuitous Vaccination was performed. The result of their labours was published, and distributed throughout the country. Small-pox inoculation was immediately discontinued, and Vaccination so generally performed at Copenhagen, that, as Dr. Willemoes lately writes to Dr. Marcet (an eminent London physician), “*the bills of mortality have returned none as dying, at Copenhagen, by the Small-pox.*”—“*Vaccination has also become general throughout Denmark.*”

\* Extract of a letter received by Dr. Jenner from Dr. De Carro, dated Vienna, Feb. 14, 1801.

After informing Dr. Jenner of the success of a clergyman at Brunnam Gebizg, who from the pulpit had exhorted his parishioners to avail themselves of the advantage of one of the greatest blessings ever bestowed by Providence on mankind; he observes, “that if the example of this benevolent divine were followed by the clergy in general, it would, in some degree, repair the waste, and heal the wounds of this destructive war.”

We are informed by Dr. De Carro, that a young nobleman, Count Francon Hugues de Salm, particularly distinguishes himself by the encouragement which he gives to this inoculation at Brun, the capital of Moravia.

He went to Vienna, on purpose to enquire of Dr. De Carro, the oracle of Germany, the best mode of introducing the practice into his own country. He took the trouble of examining into



“ In the year preceding its introduction into Vienna, the average amount of deaths, occasioned by the Small-pox, was 835, but in 1799

the nature of the disease ; and observing the appearance of the pustule. He read all the treatises he could collect on the subject ; and addressed an exhortation to the people of Moravia, urging them to profit by this valuable discovery. He has offered two prizes, for the two Moravian physicians, who shall inoculate the greatest number in the course of the year. He has engaged intelligent physicians, to assist in these inoculations, in a part of his father's house, devoted to that purpose. What is most singular, he has written a very good history of this discovery ; which he has distributed among all the clergy and schoolmasters of Bohemia and Moravia. These form associations, which are under the direction of Dr. De Carro. From him they have their vaccine matter ; and to him they send an account of all their proceedings.

Too much cannot be said in commendation of the patriotism and the philanthropy of this young prince. In forming this humane institution he has erected an eternal monument to his fame.

Dr. Portenschlag, an eminent physician of Vienna, has had his infant daughter inoculated by Dr. De Carro, four hours and a half after her birth, and she was immediately christened Mary Elizabeth Vaccinia. Dr. De Carro suggests, that the thus including christening and vaccination in one ceremony would soon eradicate the small-pox. This excellent idea also struck the celebrated Dr. Darwin, who was one of the warmest supporters of vaccination.

In Bohemia, the number vaccinated, in the year 1801, was *one thousand nine hundred and twenty* ; and, in 1802, *eight thousand one hundred and eighty*.

In Livonia, *fifteen thousand seven hundred* were vaccinated through the exertions of Dr. Huhn.

the Vaccine Inoculation was introduced, and in 1802 the number of deaths, arising from that fatal malady, was reduced to 61. In 1803 it was further reduced to 27, and in 1804 the actual number who died of the Small Pox, amounted to two persons only, and these were arrivals from the country.\* (*A loud cry of Hear! Hear!*)

“ Upon a fair calculation, therefore, it might reasonably be computed, that the whole annual saving of the lives of persons from that disorder, amounts on an average to 833, in one capital, by the beneficial practice of Vaccine Inoculation. (*A loud cry of Hear! Hear!*)

“ After having stated this fact, which makes the deepest impression upon my mind, I think I have submitted one of the strongest motives which have induced me to adopt some measure to promote its progress in *our own country*.

“ While the inhabitants of all Europe and Ame-

In the two Gallicias, no less than *sixty-five thousand two hundred and fifty-eight* persons were vaccinated in *six months*.

In the dominions of the Elector of Saltzburgh, the number vaccinated amounted, in the year 1803, to *three thousand three hundred and thirty-two*.

In the Dukedom of Mecklenburgh, up to the year 1804, *four thousand*.—Vide Ring's Treatise, vol. ii.

\* Vide Vaccinæ Vindicia, p. 97, where this very interesting fact is recorded.

rica are at this moment reaping the beneficial consequences of such a wonderful discovery—

“ While in the East Indies alone, there have been upwards of 800,000 persons inoculated in the space of a single year\*—

“ And whilst in the empire of China, too, its introduction has become general,† and it has

\* On the 14th of June, 1802, Dr. Scott first inoculated a healthy child of three years old, from whom emanated the virus that so soon pervaded the whole of India; and the number inoculated, up to December 1803, was *eleven thousand one hundred and sixty-six*. (Shoolbred, 3. 15.) Since that time, its extension has been so great and rapid over that vast peninsula, that the total number of the vaccinated is estimated at no less than *eight hundred thousand*; and it has even triumphed over the religious principles of the inhabitants; for, contrary to expectation, the Brahmins objected to it, though proceeding from the sacred cow; and a practitioner of *Errode* was, for a time, impeded in his progress by an old woman, who attempted to persuade the people that this was to be a means of enslaving them, and that they would be known by the mark in the arm, which she termed “The Company’s chop.” Dowlut Row Scindia, however, the chief of the Mahratta empire, has had one of his own children vaccinated, which cannot fail greatly to accelerate the progress among the natives.

The practice has since become general in India, and *millions* there bless the immortal name of Jenner.

† By recent accounts from Canton, we find, that the Vaccine Inoculation has been lately introduced there. A book in the Chinese language, we believe *the first British work that ever issued from a Chinese press*, has been published upon the subject, in order to promote the knowledge of the discovery. A copy of



been regularly successful in its effects in every part of the globe—

“ I am sorry, extremely hurt, however, to observe, that in *this country* alone, in which the *discovery* had *originated*, the *salutary practice* of

the work has just arrived in this country, with a sight of which we have been favoured by a gentleman, from whose remarks we cannot help making a short extract. He says, “ the curiosity of an English work issuing from the Chinese press, however extraordinary, gives way to the more extraordinary facility with which this people, always strenuous in opposing every innovation, has submitted to receive the new practice of vaccination. Not only the surgeon of the English factory, but numbers of Chinese were constantly employed in communicating the disease, from the moment it was perceived with what ease and convenience the patient went through it; and they had actually raised a very considerable subscription for the purpose of establishing Jennerian institutions, for promoting the practice in every part of their extensive empire.

“ As the small-pox, in China, has usually been attended with most fatal effects, there is little doubt that the same willingness which has manifested itself at Canton, to receive so mild and effectual a substitute, will be felt in every province of that populous country; and the more so, as public confidence *there* is not likely to be shaken by that kind of illiberal opposition which has been so industriously employed elsewhere.”

While we cannot but admire *this* departure of the *Chinese* from their usual obstinacy in favour of their ancient customs, what opinion can we entertain of the obstinacy of those Englishmen, who, contrary to all sound reasoning and the strongest evidence, continue to oppose Vaccination, and keep afloat the destructive contagion of the Small-pox, by which they *annually* doom thousands of their believing countrymen to an untimely grave!!!



*Vaccine Inoculation* has been of late years undergoing a *retrograde movement*.

“ What has been the *real cause* of *this melancholy circumstance* ?

“ Objections certainly have been started, and the promulgation of them in the manner in which they have been circulated throughout the kingdom, has no doubt had the effect of arresting very considerably the progress of Vaccination, and of spreading abroad the dreadful consequences of the original malady, thereby increasing the number of its victims.

“ I observe, in the city of LONDON, in the year 1802, the average number of deaths, for six years, was 1,811, but the effects of the Vaccine Inoculation, at first, went considerably to reduce that number, and in 1804 it was only 629, being about one third of the average number of individuals who had perished by the Small Pox, for six years preceding the introduction of Vaccination.\* (*A loud cry of Hear !*)

“ In consequence of the *numerous prejudices* which have been *excited*, and the *opinions* that have been *circulated*, adverse to Vaccination, the original practice of inoculating for the Small Pox has been gradually making progress, and the number of deaths which have happened dur-

\* *Vide* “ *Vaccinæ Vindicia*,” p. 97, where this fact is stated.

ing the last year has amounted to no less than 1680\*, which is bringing back nearly that average degree of depopulation which had been experienced previous to the introduction of the Vaccine Discovery. (*A loud cry of Hear!*)

“ Under these alarming circumstances, Sir, I found, that in every point of view, this measure claims the most serious attention of the *Legislature*, and, therefore, I am now about to submit some mode of procedure concerning it.

“ I have not the smallest inclination to propose any *compulsory measures*, being well convinced that whatever may be our view of any subject of science, this House ought to pause very long indeed, before they prescribe any law to individuals upon matters which relate to their own health, and even on which the very existence of their children, may depend†. These,

\* *Vide* “ *Vaccinæ Vindicia*,” p. 99. This dreadful and avoidable mortality has sprung, as his Lordship justly observes, from the Works published adverse to Vaccination; also (if I may be permitted to carry on the argument) to the fatal zeal of the *Antivaccinarian Society*, who inoculated for the Small-Pox *gratis*, disseminating far and wide the deadly poison; and at the death of Dr. Woodville, from the resumption of the Small-Pox Inoculation, at the Small-Pox Hospital, by his successor, Dr. Adams, who pretends to have the highest *faith* in Vaccination, and has even written in its vindication. Such *loss of life* certainly deserves the attention of Parliament, and calls aloud for redress.

† The Noble Lord alludes here to compulsory measures, to force persons to become vaccinated.

indeed, are topics upon which private individuals in society are to be allowed to be the most competent judges ; but *if I am not to have recourse to compulsory measures*, I feel that it is at least *a duty* incumbent upon me, in the situation in which I stand at this time, to submit a motion to this House, to which, if they agree, their procedure will tend to *enlighten the public*, by informing them in a *formal and regular manner*, of what appears to us to be *the truth*.

“ It will give to this *valuable discovery* the *advantage* of having *all the weight of promulgation which the high character and popularity of Parliament is capable of*.

“ With that view, I shall think it proper to submit a plan by which this House shall become possessed of a mass of evidence as to the real merits of this discovery ; which will prove highly satisfactory both to *ourselves* and to the *public at large*.

“ This measure I propose to effect by the House voting an *address* to his *Majesty*, praying ‘that his *Royal College of Physicians* shall be requested to enquire into the progress of Vaccine Inoculation, and to assign the causes of its success having been *retarded* throughout the united kingdoms, in order that their *report* may be made to this House of Parliament, and that we



*may take the most proper means of publishing it to the inhabitants at large.'*

“ If the result of such proposed inquiry turn out (*as I am strongly disposed to think it will*) a corroboration of the beneficial effects which *other Nations* seem convinced are derived from *Vaccine Inoculation*, it will satisfy the people of *this country* of the *many evils* which arise from the rapid progress of the other fatal species of disorder. It will *prove to them* that the *bad effects* which have been ascribed to *Vaccination* have been *dreadfully exaggerated*; and that the temporary duration of its benefits, in *a few cases*, have been owing to *some kind of mismanagement*.\*

“ If such shall be the *result* of the *proposed inquiry*, I have no hesitation in saying that it ought *afterwards* to be for this House to consider whether or not any reward has been bestowed upon the original *discoverer* of *Vaccine Inoculation*, which is in any degree adequate to its *real importance*, and as such consistent with the *general character* and *liberality* of *this country*.

“ This, however, is a subject for *after consideration*; but in the mean time the House will

\* Vide *Vaccinæ Vindicia*, where this is abundantly proved.



agree with me as to the *propriety* of *collecting opinions* relative to the general effects of this mode of inoculation, and to show to the world that if there be any *truth* as to *its benefits*, we shall not be the *first* to *reject them*; but *that, on the contrary, we shall use every means to encourage its progress, and this in a manner consistent with the dignity and character of our Nation.*”—(A cry of *Hear! Hear!* resounded at every part of the house.)

The SPEAKER then read the motion from the chair:—“ That an humble address be presented to his Majesty, praying that he will be graciously pleased to direct his *Royal College of Physicians* to enquire into the state of the Vaccine Inoculation in the united kingdom, and to *report* their opinion as to the progress which it has made, and the causes which have retarded its general adoption.”

Dr. MATHEWS\* next made the following admirable speech: “ Sir, it is with much satisfaction that I rise to *second the motion* which

\* This gentleman, a person of great reputation, fortune, and abilities, is Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, and was several years physician to St. George’s Hospital. He represents the county of Hereford; and by his generous liberality, and virtuous conduct, he is considered in that part of the world as a second *Man of Ross*.

the Noble Lord has just now made, and to take this opportunity of stating my own sentiments upon this invaluable discovery. From the time of its first publication to the world, I have paid it the utmost attention, and have carefully watched its progress. I must confess that, at first, although I was perfectly disposed to admit the veracity of the celebrated discoverer himself, yet I received the accounts of its success with a certain degree of caution. I then thought that it might be attended with considerable hazard to society were we to give up practising a mode, the good effects of which had been already fully experienced, in order to adopt one which might be uncertain, precarious, and dangerous in its consequences. Under these impressions, Sir, I attended with assiduity to the progress of this new practice as it advanced, and the result has been, that my mind has now received the fullest conviction of the *vast superiority* of the *Vaccine Inoculation* over that of the *Small Pox Inoculation*.

“ It may be right, that I should, on an occasion like the present, submit to your notice a few of the most striking circumstances which have occurred to me as to the effects of the original mode of Inoculation for the Small Pox.

“ In the *first* place, in many cases, where the

disorder takes a bad turn, not only will deformities arise upon the human countenance, but death itself, in its most awful form, often ensues.

“ In the *second* place, however beneficial this original mode of prevention may be to individuals, it is well known that it forms a *magazine* of the most dreadful evils, and that contagion, with all its baneful effects, usually follows.—A reference to the bills of mortality will prove this assertion, and show to demonstration, that the number of deaths have been greatly encreased since the first discovery of the Small Pox Inoculation.

“ In the *third* place, my great objection to conveying the variolous matter into the human constitution is, that it has been the means of introducing *Scrophula*, which is a more dangerous and pernicious disorder than even the natural Small Pox itself; insomuch, as that the one makes a speedy, and the other, a slow progress, towards death.

“ The numerous cases which have come under my own observation, since the introduction of the Vaccine Inoculation, have effectually persuaded me of its advantageous effects, notwithstanding the variety of opinions it has excited, and the several instances which have been adduced to demonstrate its failure.

“ These instances, Sir, I have found upon



minute investigation, have been exceedingly equivocal, and in several cases the experiment has turned out not to have been properly performed.\*

“ Where a few instances have been produced to prove that the Small Pox had ensued even after Vaccine Inoculation, they by no means tend to convince me of the inefficacy of the discovery ; for even similar cases are known to have occurred in the other species of inoculation.†

“ None of the instances, which have hitherto been brought forward by those who professed themselves to be *enemies* to this valuable and important discovery have had the smallest effect in creating doubts in my mind as to its ultimate success.

“ I have no hesitation, therefore, in saying at this moment that *I am fully convinced*, the result of further experience will correspond completely with my most sanguine expectations.

“ I cannot doubt, Sir, that the country in a short time will hasten to testify further marks of its gratitude for the inestimable benefits it has received from the assiduous exertions of the *respectable* and *learned* doctor to whom this im-

\* Vide “ *Vaccinæ Vindicia*,” *passim*.

† Vide “ *Vaccinæ Vindicia*,” p. 245, where several facts of this nature are recorded.



portant discovery is owing. His name, I doubt not, will be enrolled by posterity amongst those

‘ Inventas aut qui vitam excoluere per artes  
Atque sui memores alios fecere merendi.’

(ÆN. vi. l. 900.)

“ Such are the grounds upon which I rose to second this motion of the Noble Lord, and I have only to express my hope that the House of Commons will add some other *solid* proofs of its gratitude, and thereby shew the disposition in Parliament to encourage all manner of discoveries which tend materially to the general benefit of mankind.” (*A general cry of Hear ! Hear !*)

Mr. WILBERFORCE\* next rose, and made the

\* This gentleman, who has long had the honour of being chosen to represent the county of York, has ever displayed the most unshaken integrity, and all his measures have been directed for the *universal good of mankind*. Conscious of inward rectitude, he commands a listening audience by an eloquence that is firm and sonorous ; and the wisdom of his opinions, if not always adopted, is ever felt ; for *persuasion* hangs upon his lips. The darkest blot that ever clouded the annals of a Christian nation has been effaced, from the firm and impassioned eloquence of this statesman, and the *Slave Trade* is at last abolished, from his unceasing efforts: another crown of immortal honour now awaits him, viz. *the abolition from England of the Small-pox*, which human policy can surely effect, as the PLAGUE and MURRAIN are kept off by wholesome regulations ;—and now the *Cow-pock* is introduced, such laws cannot be thought *even* to trench upon the freedom of mankind.

following very argumentative speech:—"It gives me, Sir, the greatest pleasure to find that the Noble Lord opposite me has now taken up this question. I have long entertained an anxious desire, that such an important subject should be brought into the House, through the medium of some individual in an high and powerful situation.

"Although that Noble Lord has fulfilled my hopes and expectations in this respect, yet, Sir, I am greatly disposed to doubt, whether the plan he has just now suggested is *so likely* to have the *desired effect* as *some others* that might be submitted to the consideration of the House.

"It may be remembered, that some time ago, a certificate had been made out and signed by a most respectable body of medical gentlemen, as to the propriety and efficacy of Vaccine Inoculation. I believe that *every medical name, of any celebrity*, in the city of London and its environs, was attached to that certificate,\* and, therefore, so far as the effect of such a mode of procedure, as relates to *medical men*, could go, it has already been tried.

"Undoubtedly there have been various rumours circulated, and arguments raised against the practice of inoculation for the Cow Pox, and

\* For this list vide Ring's elaborate Treatise on the Cow-Pock, vol. ii.

every one has heard of some individual instances of failure, and it has unfortunately happened, that many of these failures have originated through the imprudent management even of its best friends.

“ Many persons have taken upon them to give this disorder, without any study, relying upon the bare description they had received of it, believing this to be sufficient to enable any individual to pronounce upon its real character, and to practise it with success and the utmost safety.

“ This, I believe, has been carried too far, and consequently there have been instances in which persons have been inoculated with the vaccine matter, who have had no true disease ; hence some have had the natural, and others the inoculated Small-Pox, at some distance of time after such imperfect operation.

“ To this kind of mismanagement I am inclined to attribute the foundation of the various publications which have tended to *retard* the progress of this valuable and important discovery.\*

“ What I conceive as a preferable, and more practicable course of procedure, in regard to the object which the Noble Lord has in view, would be, ‘ that a Committee of the House of Commons, and another of the House of Lords, should be

\* Vide “ *Vaccinæ Vindicia*,” *passim*, where such errors are honourably by the persons themselves confessed.



appointed to enquire into the actual state of the disease, and to receive evidence as to its progress and effects.'

" When the last measure was adopted by the House of Commons, upon this same subject, various cases were brought forward by persons who said that the practice of inoculation amounted to a failure; such cases were heard by the Committee with the greatest impartiality, yet we all know how favourable their ultimate report to the House was as to its success.

" Upon these grounds I cannot help thinking that another Report of a similar nature with the former, being presented to the House, would be attended with much greater advantages than merely a Report or Certificate, from the College of Physicians, and would be much more congenial to the inclinations and feelings of the people of this country. The one might be considered as being biassed by *prejudice*, but the other universally as acting with the greatest impartiality for the general good of the nation.

" Although I agree with the Noble Lord, that compulsory measures, in such cases, ought carefully to be avoided, if possible: at the same time I think there is another method which may be adopted with absolute justice and propriety.

" Although we cannot force people to inocu-



late with the vaccine matter, in preference to that of the Small Pox, yet we may impose certain rules, or restrictions\*, on those who do put the latter practice into execution upon their children. This would contribute greatly to secure the public against the effects of *contagion*, in the same manner as is done in the case of *the plague*.

“The laws of *quarantine*† have continued long

\* *Vide* “*Vaccinæ Vindicia*,” p. 184, where the House of Commons are accused by me of *conniving at murder* (I think myself justified in the expression, however *harsh*), unless some regulations of this nature are now enforced.

† The plague, as it is called, is now chiefly confined to Grand Cairo and Alexandria, the two hot-beds and nurseries of pestilence, particularly the former crowded and filthy city; to many parts of Syria, to the European and Asiatic coast, bordering on the Archipelago, to Constantinople, and some maritime towns of Arabia and Persia, which traffic by the Red Sea. About two years ago, Constantinople lost 100,000 inhabitants by this single disease. Their ignorance of true religion, and stupid notions of irresistible predestination, with other peculiar customs, subject the Turks more than any other Mediterranean nation to pestilential contagion. The plague now seldom gains admittance into other European sea-ports, and even if imported to our shores, the wise precautions and regulations adopted by *quarantines*, check its irruption. This is a most important improvement in the police of modern states, for the original institution and rough draft of which, about 300 years ago, we are indebted to the Venetians. The internal ordinances, however, enacted to prevent the dispersion of pestilential infection, were, until the present century, extremely erroneous and impolitic.

to be enforced, and have been found to be attended with infinite advantage. These may be deemed a constraint upon the public, but having proved so beneficial, why not impose the same controul over mankind in *other cases* where communications with the diseased may be attended with dangerous consequences ?

“ Now we know, Sir, that the Small Pox has been found by long and fatal experience, to be nearly *a kind of plague\**, so that great advantage

Fortunately for mankind, the infection of plague spreads to a very small distance through the air, without some contact or adhesion to infected goods and porous materials, or by personal communication of the sound inhabitants with the diseased : a neighbour shutting himself up at a few yards distance from an infected house, as in Small-pox, will always escape unhurt. If the contagion of these plagues could be so suddenly and widely scattered over a kingdom, as epidemical cartarrh or influenza, the earth in a few months would be converted into an enormous church-yard, every where filled with dead bodies. Here they resemble each other.

\* Huxham, Sydenham, &c. have each considered this disease as a real plague. “ The regulations (says the illustrious Hargarth) to prevent the casual Small-Pox at Chester, were so successful, even at the commencement of the society, established here for that purpose, as very early to suggest the idea of exterminating that distemper from Great Britain. In the year 1778, I proposed the outline of such a plan to the late Dr. John Fothergill, and had the satisfaction of enjoying several personal conferences with him upon the subject. His character, as a physician, and philosopher of the most comprehensive knowledge, of the clearest and soundest understanding, is universally known. The goodness of his heart distinguished him no less

would arise to society were we to prohibit persons who do not vaccinate their children, from allowing them, when labouring under the Small Pox, to go out amongst others who have hitherto escaped its dreadful consequences.

“ This is a sort of justice, which I conceive Parliament owes to the country, and a benefit, which would, by our example being followed, even extend itself to other countries.

“ The present permission of variolated patients going abroad amongst society is not productive of any advantages, either to the children themselves\*, or their parents.

eminently as the friend of mankind. The opinion of such a man will interest the curiosity of the medical and the philosophical reader, and will have due influence with the public, especially with many respectable characters of good sense and benevolent disposition, who have never so deliberately investigated the question, as to acquire the full confidence of their own judgment in its determination. On returning to London in the autumn of 1778, he wrote me a letter, in which there is the following passage: ‘ I have mentioned the intention of ‘ freeing this country from the Small-Pox to divers of the faculty, and shall continue to do so, as it falls in my way. ‘ The proposal is received variously, but in exact proportion to ‘ their *humanity*.’ In a subsequent letter he says, ‘ I do not ‘ forget the business of the Small-Pox. I mention thy views ‘ and wishes as opportunity offers; and shall very cheerfully ‘ unite in doing every thing in my power to promote an institution, which has for its object the banishment of *so great a plague*.’ ”

\* After the eruptive stage *infection* commences, and then cold air is not requisite. DIMSDALE.



“ If we found that the parents were not willing to confine their children in their own houses, would there not be an evident propriety in Government having places\* appointed for that express purpose ?

\* “ If our *criminals* (says Haygarth), who undoubtedly are the most guilty class of the whole community, and the *negro slaves*, a race of people of so degraded a character, and situated in so distant a region, have obtained a liberal portion of the pity, and of the bounty of Great Britain, we cannot entertain a doubt, for a single moment, that the like generous and compassionate sentiments would operate, and much more powerfully, to succour and protect our own innocent infants, the darlings of our bosoms ! The nation that voluntarily offers a large bounty to save the life of a negro slave, would cheerfully and readily bestow one *twentieth* or one *thirtieth* part of such a premium to preserve a British child to his family and to his country. If such grievances and calamities were properly understood, they would soon obtain adequate redress. A people who are shocked at the bare narrative of misery, suffered by the *African slaves* on board crowded transports, or of *criminals* in our jails, could not behold with indifference the poor helpless children of a *neighbouring* cottage, who, through the ignorance, the superstition, or the penury of the parents, are daily dying of the most painful, and loathsome distemper with which this land is visited. Many would gladly bestow their bounty in these deeds of mercy, if any plan, which should be thought practicable, were proposed. If the sufferers by the Small-Pox could obtain the same degree of attention as the *criminal* and the *negro* at present fortunately enjoy, they would not long be destitute of an equal share of compassion, and would soon obtain effectual relief. Their situation is falsely supposed to be **HOPELESS**; on that consideration, and that alone, their *cause* is



“ I only threw out *these hints*, as I think it is a thing which gentlemen ought to hold in their minds. •

abandoned. All exertions to protect them are thought ridiculous, because they have been hitherto deemed impossible. If it were generally known that we had the power, we should not long want the inclination to help these wretched sufferers. Our sentiments of commiseration, and acts of beneficence would not solely be moved by the description of others; we may behold miserable objects, in sufficient numbers, with our own eyes. These emotions need not solely be excited by the inhabitants of the remote regions of the earth, but by our neighbours and fellow citizens; not by the most guilty, but the most innocent; not by objects of disgust, but of beauty, tenderness, and love.

\* Though the plague is the most mortal disorder to which humanity is liable; though its visitations are attended with the most destructive havoc; yet we may be convinced, by comparing the history of their progress, that the Small-pox has been fatal to infinitely greater numbers of mankind. The plague has probably existed from remote antiquity, and, at times, has excited a general alarm among civilized nations, but its ravages have been temporary and partial. Whereas the Small-pox has universally, with very few exceptions, and constantly, for above a thousand years, spread destruction over the whole habitable world. During this period, we cannot form a probable computation of their comparative devastations; but we may reasonably conjecture that the past and present mortality by the Small-pox is *many thousand degrees* greater than by the plague.

On what principle of reason, or of humanity, do we then nourish and protect the most fatal enemy of mankind? We are astonished at the folly and the superstition of the Turks, whose principles of predestination foster the plague among them, though the cause of so much misery and mortality. Yet, with

“ This measure of regulation could by no possible construction be reckoned compulsory upon

equal indifference, and nearly equal absurdity, we nourish among us a distemper which destroys a seventh or eighth portion of our offspring. The Turks might be taught wisdom by the Europeans, who preserve themselves from infection by very easy rules, and by the successful laws of all the civilized nations of Europe. The general diffusion of the Small-pox affords a popular prejudice that no civil regulations can controul its progress. But authentic proofs of its extermination from Rhode Island, New England, St. Helena, &c. being produced, no great effort of wisdom is required to conclude, that, by the like methods, it might be, aided by voluntary inoculation of the Cow-pock, exterminated from Great Britain.

If a gazette announce the ravages of the plague among the barbarians of Asia or Africa, all Europe trembles. Yet Europe nourishes, in every part of it, a distemper, which for many centuries has been incomparably more mortal, and which might, by the same or easier methods, be utterly extirpated. The *single rule of prevention*, by confining people in their houses under the eruptive stage, or to airy places appropriated for that purpose, which on this occasion I shall take for granted to be adequate to the important purpose, would prove more practicable, beyond all comparison, and less interrupt or derange the habits of society, and of commercial intercourse, than certainly the laws of quarantine.

It is highly probable, that the *murrain*, or the distemper among the horned cattle, like the plague and the small-pox, is communicated through the medium of air. It has been several times successfully exterminated from Great Britain, a fact which certainly enables us to infer, by analogy, that proper measures would, in like manner, extinguish the variolous infection. The murrain appeared in Italy in 1514, and again in 1711, when it spread through Germany, France, Flanders,



the feelings of the people, or in any degree injurious to the liberty of society.

and in July 1714 appeared in England. In Middlesex, Essex, and Surrey, it destroyed 5,518 cows and 439 calves. It raged with great fatality for three months; but, by the wise measures of government, its progress was soon checked, and the distemper perfectly exterminated before Christmas. In many parts of the continent of Europe it continued to rage for several years.

The murrain was again brought from Holland into Great Britain in 1745, and continued its destructive ravages in this island for full twelve years, being not exterminated till 1757. The long continuance of this mischief partly proceeded from the confusion of the nation at that time, harassed by a foreign war, and by an internal rebellion. The rewards offered by government, for observing the prescribed rules, were too small to secure strict and faithful obedience. As an inducement to kill the cattle on the first symptom of infection, only *half* the value was allowed to a poor farmer, not exceeding forty shillings for a cow, and ten shillings for a calf. To shew the general sense of the nation, that this sum was inadequate to the end proposed, several associations were formed in different parts of the kingdom to increase it. Thus at Beverley in Yorkshire, April 6, 1748, landlords agreed to allow ten shillings to their tenants at the rate of twenty shillings given by the king, for distempered cattle, properly slaughtered. We may form some conjecture of the mischief produced by this distemper from the sum total\* of the public rewards, though estimated at so low a rate, and so partially distributed.

As only half the value was allowed to a poor tenant, and

\* The expence of rewards for slaughtering distempered cattle, in different years, from 1746 to 1757, was 169,722 Pounds.

“It is merely an act of security, rendered necessary in order to guard the lives of some of

nothing to persons in better circumstances, the chance of recovering their cattle would tempt many to defer killing the distempered at all till they had generated and communicated the infection. If the public had allowed the full value for cattle properly slaughtered, as soon as infected, and the other regulations had been punctually executed, the murrain might have been exterminated from the whole island in a few months; the total expence of rewards would have been greatly diminished; and the national losses and calamities might have been, in a very great degree, prevented.

The murrain was brought into Hampshire in 1769; it soon afterwards appeared in Scotland; and, since that time, twice in Essex and once in Suffolk. In all these instances, the infection was immediately and perfectly extinguished. Encouraged and instructed by the example of England, the murrain has been exterminated from France, by an imitation of the measures which had proved successful in this country. But in spite of the fortunate and happy exemption of this island from the calamity, and though the regulations by which it was obtained are perfectly understood, yet it is allowed to continue its devastations in several parts of the continent of Europe, even so near to us as Holland.

A letter in the Gentleman's Magazine, dated Rotterdam, 1769, Dec. 17th, exhibits an exact statement of the cattle which died of the murrain in South and North Holland, in five months, namely, from April to August inclusive, according to the returns which were made to the magistrates.

Alive in	Sick.	Died.	Recovered.	In health.
April 1769.				
60,326	29,255	21,083	5,368	31,071 S. Holl.
41,664	19,288	11,824	5,037	22,376 N. Holl.
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
101,990	48,543	32,907	10,405	54,447 Total.



our fellow-creatures against infection, and is both a salutary and mild restriction.

A premium of ten thousand guilders was offered by the States General, to any person who would discover a remedy. The writer adds justly and pathetically to his English correspondent, " You may learn from this true representation, how happy your island is to be so far separated from the infection, as not to be within its reach. The misery it has occasioned here is not to be expressed; and, if it should please God to continue this severe visitation much longer, an universal bankruptcy must ensue."

That they should not profit by our wise and salutary laws, corroborated by the most authentic facts, appears astonishing and unaccountable. As the distemper still rages so near us, in spite of this evidence, what would have been the consequence, if the contagion in Great Britain, which withstood our anxious exertions for twelve years, had finally proved victorious? If such had been the event, there is a high degree of probability, that the murrain would have continued unconquered through Europe, and would have been submitted to for ever, like the Small-pox, as one of the inevitable evils of nature. We happily improved the peculiar advantages of our insular situation and free constitution. By the complete and frequent extinctions of this pestilence, we have given an instructive and beneficent lesson to Europe, and all other civilized nations. We have clearly refuted, by the most unquestionable proofs, the dangerous doctrine which then generally prevailed, that the distemper originated from bad seasons, and bad food, but not from infection. Had this doctrine become established in Great Britain, and had we submitted to the evil as inevitable, in the same manner as we now submit to the Small-pox, we cannot doubt that the murrain would have become a perpetual calamity.

Let us employ the inestimable privileges of our situation for the general benefit of mankind. Were it possible to excite the

“ It is not contrary to measures which Parliament have it in their power to adopt, in regard to other cases of contagious disorders.

spirit of the English nation to the glorious and humane ambition of extinguishing the Small-pox, the business would soon be successfully accomplished. What blessings and comforts would result to mankind, not only in Great Britain, but in all the surrounding nations! Instead of being regarded with enmity by our neighbours, we should become the most deserving object of their love, gratitude, and admiration. No triumph could render the national character so illustrious as a complete victory over the Small-pox. We need not despair of exciting an enthusiasm among the people, in a cause which leads so directly to true glory and real greatness. Difficulties undoubtedly would arise, but such as ought to excite, not discourage, our exertions. We have overcome difficulties incomparably greater, in a much less meritorious cause.

The rules of prevention proposed by Dr. Haygarth are practicable and very simple.

1. Suffer no person, who has not had the Small-pox to come into the infectious house. No visitor, who has any communication with persons liable to the distemper, should touch or sit down on any thing infectious.

2. No patient, after the pocks have appeared, must be suffered to go into the street, or other frequented place. Fresh air must be constantly admitted, by doors and windows, into the sick chamber.

3. The utmost attention to *cleanliness* is absolutely necessary; *during* and *after* the distemper, no person, food, clothes, furniture, dog, cat, money, medicines, or any other thing that is known or suspected to be bedaubed with matter, spittle, or other infectious discharges of the patient, should go or be carried out of the house till they be washed; and till they



“I remember perfectly well, that soon after the discovery of Vaccine Inoculation, it was said that many more people had died of the Small Pox than before ; this, however, was found to be entirely owing to the patients going into the open air, and catching infection at a time when they were most susceptible of it.

“ I am not at all surprised that the practice of Vaccine Inoculation has made so very little progress in this, the very country where it *originated*, as it is owing to one of those curious circumstances which arise from the state and principles of human nature that *new discoveries* are

be sufficiently exposed to the fresh air. No foul linen, nor any thing else that can retain the poison, should be folded up, or put into drawers, boxes, or be otherwise shut up from the air, but must be immediately thrown into water, and kept there till washed. No attendants should touch what is to go into another family till their hands are washed. When a patient dies of the Small-pox, particular care should be taken that nothing infectious be taken out of the house so as to do mischief.

4. The patient must not be allowed to approach any person liable to the distemper, till every scab has dropt off; till all the clothes, furniture, food, and all other things touched by the patient during the distemper; till the floor of the sick chamber; and till the hair, face, and hands have been carefully washed. After every thing has been made perfectly clean, the doors, windows, drawers, boxes, and all other places that can retain infectious air, should be kept open, till it be cleared out of the house.

viewed with greater caution and surprise in those places where they are first made, than in those countries where they are afterwards disseminated. While in other countries great labour and pains are bestowed in cultivating and improving a discovery, and in putting it into practice for the benefit of the human race, it is often found that the reputation of its original success dies gradually away in the very country which gave it birth.\*

“ Now, Sir, what is the best mode of getting the better of that extraordinary antipathy which arises in the human mind upon the subject of discoveries or innovations ?

“ Is it not to infuse information into the minds of the people by every possible means ! To hold out to their view proofs of its superior efficacy in foreign countries, and to demonstrate clearly the advantages with which it might naturally be attended in our own ? and to remove those prejudices which have arisen from the *vague and unfounded reports of self-interested individuals* ?—These surely are the means which, if adopted, would tend to disseminate the happy consequences of this useful and wonderful discovery throughout the inhabitants of our own

\* This is an elegant explanation of the old and true proverb,  
“ *A prophet is not such in his own country.*”



country, and still farther to extend its advantages to the most distant quarters of the globe.

“ On the whole, Sir, I cannot help wishing, that the Noble Lord would consider whether, or not, it would be practicable to appoint such a Committee to report to the House the result of their investigations against next Session of Parliament, and also to ascertain whether, or not, such restrictions as those which I have now suggested, would not be attended with most beneficial consequences to the health, welfare, and happiness of society.

“ The plan of having this Committee to procure the evidence adduced before themselves, I am convinced would be much better relished by the country than the mode proposed by the present motion of leaving that Committee to form this judgment upon the previous report of the College of Physicians. The same species of evidence would still be open to them, and they would no doubt be inclined to view the whole through an impartial medium; their minds being previously quite *unbiassed* upon the subject, would only be susceptible of changes by the evidence before them.”

MR. SECRETARY WINDHAM.\*—“ The only

\* It is rather surprising, that this *able politician* should advocate the cause of the COW-Роск,—he who occasioned the con-

point, Sir, in which it appears to me, that we differ in opinion, as to the subject under our consideration, is, as to the mode that ought to be pursued in effecting the object we have in view.

“ Upon this point I must say, that I am rather inclined to give the preference to the plan which has been suggested by my Noble Friend, who brought forward this motion.

“ The proposition which has been just now made by the Hon. Gentleman on the opposite side seems to be merely a commutation of that which has been suggested by the Noble Lord near me. The whole difference turns upon the question of substituting the Report of a committee of this House for that of the College of Physicians.

“ The Hon. Member seems to think, that an investigation and Report, proceeding from a

tinuance of the diabolical practice of *BULL-baiting*. Gratitude to the COW, it is hoped, will next obtain some clemency to HER HUSBAND. The English mob are surely *savage* enough, without *Parliament* keeping up a brutal practice, which shocks every principle of humanity, religion, and justice. Hence, however I might wish to applaud the splendid talents of Mr. Windham, my pen refuses him the panegyric: yet from our present government, whose highest attribute is *justice* and *mercy*, I expect ere long to see a *prohibition* of such an inhuman custom, sanctioned at it now stands, by a BRITISH HOUSE OF COMMONS. Surely, Lord Henry Petty, Mr. Fox, Mr. Sheridan, aided by Mr. Wilberforce, will wipe away *this blot* from the *annals of our nation*. When the *Cow-pox* is next debated in Parliament, the *abolition of Bull-baiting* should be proposed.

Committee, would have more weight and authority with the public, than a report issuing from a body of Physicians.

“ In this particular, however, I must beg leave to differ from him, as I think a Committee of this House would be less competent to form a correct and sound judgment upon the subject, than medical men would be.

“ Their incompetency would be felt and considered by the public, and consequently an opinion, from them, as to the good or bad effects of the Vaccine Inoculation would have much less weight on their minds.

“ It would not tend to allay their suspicions, nor administer a guidance for their future conduct.

“ Far different, however, would be the effect of a Report proceeding from that learned and respectable body, the Royal College of Physicians, most formally called upon by Parliament.

“ By the Noble Lord’s plan, I think the authority and influence of Parliament would come in just in the way in which it ought to come.

“ It will add a superior degree of solemnity to our sanction of what we deem a most useful and highly beneficial discovery.

“ In the one case the House would be grounding their procedure upon the opinion of



a Committee, founded perhaps upon fallacious principles, while in the other they will proceed upon the surest grounds, upon the sentiments and opinions of men of experience, in a learned profession, which enables them to judge with superior accuracy and acuteness upon subjects connected with that profession.

“ To Committees of this House the common adage might be applied, ‘ *Ne sutor ultra crepidam* ;’ for it is a well-known fact, that a man is always a more competent judge of matters relating to his own profession, than another who is a perfect stranger to such subjects.

“ On the whole, I think, that the plan of my noble friend would have infinitely the best chance of overcoming the public prejudices, and of giving validity to the opinions of those best able to judge of the real merits of this valuable discovery made by Dr. Jenner.

“ Perhaps, indeed, these prejudices may be found already too deeply rooted in the minds of some few individuals to be extirpated by the combined efforts both of the College of Physicians and of Parliament, if we were to judge from the failure of our former sanction, in accomplishing the utmost of our wishes.

“ This, however, I sincerely trust will not be the case, as I am one of those who, convinced of its superior efficacy by its success in



foreign countries, have only to deplore that it has not met with *better encouragement* in our own.

“ The Hon. Gentleman who spoke last recommends a certain species of *compulsion*, and indeed I think it is such a one *as the legislature of any country may, in certain cases, be well entitled to adopt, in order to prevent contagious maladies from spreading among society*. Such compulsory measures ought, however, not to be adopted except in cases of the most urgent necessity. If it really can be shewn that compulsory measures are requisite upon the present occasion, then is Parliament blameable for not having adopted them sooner.

“ It is now common to be *scandalized* at seeing the wretched and miserable objects, who are afflicted with this baneful disorder, carried about in the public streets, in the arms of their anxious and afflicted parents, mingling with society, as if no such infectious disease existed.

“ I know well, however, that the moment any kind of compulsion is adopted upon subjects of this sort, that moment there is a greater degree of hatred excited in the public mind against what may be judiciously prescribed ; and I therefore should be exceedingly unwilling to resort to such a measure.

“ The *mild, solemn, and considerate recom-*

*mentation of Vaccination* by Parliament being what they judge the most prudent plan to be pursued, will no doubt go infinitely further than any *constraint* whatever.

“ Had the question this day related solely to the quantum of reward which Parliament ought to bestow upon the Discoverer of this most efficacious and beneficial practice, I should not have objected to the appointment of a Committee in the manner the Hon. Member proposes, namely, for the purpose of leaving the business entirely to their discretion.

“ That subject, however, will be more fit for future consideration, when this previous point is properly ascertained to the satisfaction of the public.

“ Then will be the time to remunerate and encourage that *meritorious individual* to whom society in general owes the utmost gratitude and favour, and who, I cannot help thinking, has not yet been sufficiently rewarded for the expence and trouble this discovery has cost him. (*A loud cry of Hear! Hear! from all parts of the House.*)

“ Such are the grounds upon which I think it my duty to support the Noble Lord in the motion he has made, and the reasons which would make me exceedingly unwilling to resort to compulsory measures under any circum-

stances, except those of the most urgent and dangerous necessity.” (*A partial cry of Hear!*)

MR. WILBERFORCE in explanation.—“I should be sorry to be in any degree misunderstood as to what I have said in regard to *compulsion*. The Right Hon. Gentleman seems to suppose, I meant to suggest the propriety of adopting compulsory measures in regard to the practice of the *Vaccine* Inoculation.

“So far from meaning that kind of constraint, I think I expressed myself so as to imply that it would be absolutely wrong. This is my most deliberate opinion. All that I meant by talking of compulsion was, that some particular mode ought to be prescribed for enforcing certain regulations and restrictions upon those individuals, who might in a voluntary manner submit to Small-Pox Inoculation, such regulations being of a kind neither to be injurious nor to bear hard upon them in any respect whatever. It was alone with the intention of providing for the convenience of such afflicted individuals, who, from their situation in life, or other circumstances, might not be enabled to provide for themselves proper accommodation. These, Sir, were my sentiments; and I still think that some such provision is necessary, in order to afford Small-pox Inoculation



(a most valuable discovery) the benefit of an impartial, a prudent, and an effectual trial. Such a measure would be attended with this important advantage too, that the public themselves would more easily become witnesses of the greater efficacy of the Vaccine Inoculation, and consequently of its rapid and successful progress throughout the united kingdom.”

Mr. BANKS.\*—“ Sir, it appears to me that the mode proposed by the Noble Lord is exceedingly eligible at this late period of the session, in so far as he wishes to combine the science of a Learned Body with the judgment and deliberation of a Committee of the House of Commons, and that nothing should be determined upon until both their reports have been conjoined and submitted to the consideration of the House. If this motion had been made, however, at an earlier period of the Session, I cannot help thinking that, in a matter of this sort (which is a matter of *fact*, and not a *question of science*), there could not be a better mode of procedure than that which has been suggested by my Hon. Friend near me. Even those the

\* This gentleman possesses also a commanding and impressive eloquence, and is one of the highest ornaments of our senate. He was listened to with polite attention, though his speech did not procure him many marks of much approbation.



best acquainted with the matter under discussion cannot pretend to give an accurate description of the real sources from which the existing prejudices have arisen, or the causes from which its want of cultivation and encouragement have originated.\* The subject in which the public are most materially interested, and the fact which remains to be *more clearly* ascertained is, whether this discovery which has been made by Dr. Jenner *is, in the mode in which it is now practised*, of such a sort as to afford us a reasonable security against the ravages of that more dreadful disorder which it is intended to prevent.

“ This, Sir, appears to me to be a subject of consideration so distinct from that of a *scientific* nature, that it is one which any number of reasonable and thinking men, affording their time to it, are as capable of laying distinctly and clearly before the public, as the most learned body that ever existed could do.

“ As my Noble Friend, however, does not, by his proposed plan, preclude a combination of all the advantages resulting from science and learning, and experience, I cannot object to it, although I may think it capable of some improvement.

\* Surely from great *misrepresentation*. Vide “ *Vaccinæ Vindicia*,” *passim*.

“ From the understanding I have of the matter, I think, that the peculiar *disadvantages* under which this valuable discovery has laboured in this country, and the *causes* which have retarded its progress here more than in other parts of Europe, have been in a great measure owing to the manner in which the operation of introducing the Vaccine matter has been performed.

“ While, in other countries, the practice has been solely confined to *scientific* persons, it has been rendered here so exceedingly plain to every understanding, that all persons have been enabled to put it into execution. In this country it has been found that scarcely any one of *the profession* is called to practise it.\*

“ To this *indiscriminate use*, therefore, I am inclined to attribute its failure of success in those cases which have been urged by its *enemies* as arguments against its introduction.†

\* This is surely a mistake ; for few others, I believe, practise Vaccination here but medical men. Witness the many Jennerian Societies established throughout London, and the several country towns throughout England.

† I wish our profession could be wholly exonerated from the charge of experiencing *no failure*, and all the reported adverse cases originated from among the common part of mankind. This, however, is not the fact ; nor should *instant perfection* in large bodies be expected—but what we blame the *enemies* of Vaccination for, is, their ever omitting to investigate and explain the *causes of failure*. The practice of Vaccination, we grant, is

“ In those countries where it has been entirely confined to medical persons, it has been ascertained, that no such *exceptions* to its success have ever been started;\* for as I have been informed no such cases of failure have ever happened amongst them.

“ The improvement, or rather addition, which I am inclined to suggest to the Noble Lord’s motion, is the junction of another learned body, who have been overlooked on this occasion, but who it would be exceedingly proper, should also be requested to join in this enquiry. The learned body to which I allude, Sir, is that of the *Royal College of Surgeons*. If we are to enter into a minute investigation at all, and endeavour to receive information from men of

extremely *easy*; but still some *little knowledge* is requisite, and *this knowledge* was not at first understood, and hence even medical men have sometimes failed. I again repeat, we hold it ungenerous in the *enemies* of Vaccination to report such failures in *medical men*, without (if this must be done) explaining the *sources of such miscarriage*; and my “*Vaccinæ Vindicia*” will shew how *medical men* are always ready to acknowledge their errors.

\* Mr. Bankes must be much misinformed as to this circumstance; for *ignorant oppositions* have originated in every country; but the *interference of government* has so sanctioned the eminent characters who have stood up for its support, that their clamours have been silenced, and they have been obliged, quite disheartened, to retire.



science as a general rule for our conduct, why ought we not to make that enquiry and research as general and extensive as possible?

“ A subject of this kind does not require us to confine our investigation to *Physicians* alone. Upon that footing, Sir, I shall take the liberty of suggesting to the Noble Lord, that a provision should be inserted for the purpose of referring the question as to the Vaccine Inoculation also to the *Royal College of Surgeons*. (*A partial cry of Hear!*)

“ I cannot help stating, that I still persevere in the opinion I formerly entertained, that if this discovery be of that utility and advantage, which I *trust* and *hope it will prove to be*, it will find its way against all opposition, and that the *learned Doctor*, who has been the *discoverer* of this *great and important secret* to mankind, cannot in such a country as this, *fail of obtaining his due reward, by the immense extension of his medical practice*. Add to this, that the *learned Doctor*, who has made this *valuable and beneficial discovery*, certainly must also gain a considerable *additional advantage*, in consequence of this inquiry now about to be set on foot, in order to quiet the fears, and strengthen the conviction of the people, which leads me to think that Dr. Jenner will

find himself well remunerated without any thing further from Parliament.\*

“ As to the question of *compulsion*, which has been touched upon in the course of this discussion, I can hardly think that my Hon. Friend near me (Mr. Wilberforce), who has shewn himself so well acquainted with the general principles of liberty, upon all occasions, meant to recommend any compulsory measures, that would infringe upon that freedom, which even allows *prejudice* to work its way.

“ You may be assured, Sir, that there is a *sense* in the people of England, which will not

\* This is certainly a very *curious*, and, I think, *unfair* argument, ‘ that the *fame* accruing from the interference of Parliament, and the consequent *lift* that this would give the *learned Doctor* in his profession should be considered as a part of his reward.’ Such a *benefactor to a whole nation—to present and future generations—to all the known world*—should feel enough of *gratitude* from the *British nation*, that if he chose it (to adapt my expressions to such a groveling idea), he might *forsake business*, and pass the rest of his days in the happy contemplation of the benefits arising to mankind, from his wonderful discovery. If it were permitted to me to reason with a member of the House of Commons, I would ask the sum total of fifteen millions of pence\*, the extent of our population, omitting the vast population of our foreign settlements ; and surely *one penny* is as little as each true Briton would wish individually to give to his *greatest benefactor*, in order that he might pass the remainder of his life in ease and comfort, that he might enjoy “ *otium cum dignitate*.”

\* 50,000*l*.

long oppose truth; that even without the aid of Parliament, without enquiries through the means of Committees, or investigations and reports made out by a College of Physicians, *prejudice* will at last disappear, and *truth will ultimately prevail*.

“As the mode now proposed, however, will certainly tend either to *expedite* on the one hand a conviction of that *truth* which it is so desirable to assert, or, on the other, to expose the fallacy of those arguments which have been adduced in favour of the discovery, without any undue means being used to support the one, or the other, I shall certainly vote for the motion which has been made by the Noble Lord.”

MR. WILLIAM SMITH.\*—“I do not rise, Sir, for the purpose of discussing the real merits, as to the effect of this *wonderful* discovery, relying that we shall in the end find, that it will turn out to our most sanguine expectations, and consequently well worthy the further liberality of Parliament (cry of *hear! hear!*). I merely wish to make a few observations upon a subject which

\* The following speech was extremely well received, and very ably delivered; and the compliment to a Noble Lord at the end put the House into excellent humour.—This gentleman is Member for Norwich.



is of such vast importance to the public at large, that I do not think a few minutes will be at all mis-spent upon this occasion, although there is to be an ulterior discussion. I cannot help thinking with the honourable gentleman who spoke last, that if there were also to be a reference to the *College of Surgeons* as well as to the *College of Physicians*, considerable advantage would be derived, for this plain and obvious reason, that *Surgeons*, more than *Physicians*, have had occasion to practise the Vaccine Inoculation, and to enter into the merits of the arguments which have been raised concerning it. (*A loud cry of Hear! Hear!*)

“ With respect to the reasons which have prevented the propagation of this measure for saving the lives of the people in this country, as it has done in others, I must admit that my learned friend (Dr. Mathews) has hit upon the very sentiments I wished to have expressed.

“ I do not believe that any effectual plan has been adopted in order to prevent *mistakes* in the performance of the operation. I really am of opinion, that a great part of those *prejudices* which have arisen, proceeded entirely from the circumstances of its having been conducted by the hands of persons who from *carelessness* or *ignorance* have communicated to their patients a false and spurious species of this disorder.\*

\* Vide “ *Vaccinæ Vindicia*, ” *passim*.

“ This is indeed a cause which we must all lament ; and I think that it affords an additional reason for referring the subject to the investigation of *Surgeons* as well as *Physicians*.

“ I must confess, Sir, that I rose chiefly to express my *extreme* satisfaction, that this most important and interesting subject has been brought forward from the *respectable quarter* from which it has proceeded (a general cry of *hear! hear!*). The *high* and *respectable character* which the Noble Lord possesses in his Majesty’s government is a circumstance *alone* sufficient to do away those prejudices which are at present excited, and to obviate the objections which have been *maliciously* raised against this valuable discovery.

“ I do, I affirm, most *sincerely* rejoice that the matter has been thus taken up, for at all events, I am convinced that if the plan proposed by the Noble Lord be adopted by the House, the ends in view will be completely answered, and the country will soon reap infinite advantage, by a saving of the lives of *thousands* of its inhabitants.”

Mr. PAUL.\*—“ Sir, I beg leave to make a

\* This gentleman’s speech contains a very useful and interesting *corroborant* of the fact recorded by Lord Henry Petty respecting Vienna ; and it made a proper impression upon the

few observations upon the subject now under discussion. I happened to live many years in the town of Lucknow, where there is reckoned a greater population than in any other part of the East Indies. The Vaccine Inoculation was there first introduced by *men of science*, although it afterwards came to be known, and practised by people in the profession of physic, *two centuries behind us in the knowledge of medicine*. In that town, Sir, the number of lives, which were annually lost by the dreadful ravages of the Small Pox, was reckoned to amount to between 670 and 800, annually, but since the introduction of this discovery, there were not above 75 persons who annually died of that disease, during the last *three years* I resided in that place. (*A loud cry of Hear! Hear! resounded from every part of the House.*) The people in that part of the world, so far from thinking it requisite that *men of science* should alone practise it, were convinced that it was only necessary to be performed by slight intelligence, in order to be effectual. There is one other circumstance which I think worthy of remark; which is, that in *Scotland* prejudice is

House.—To these interesting facts might be added, I have every reason to believe, the nearly total abolition of Small-pox from Paris, Berlin, and Petersburg.



certainly much stronger against the practice of Vaccination than in England, and particularly in the most northern parts of it, and, for that reason, I am inclined to suggest to the Noble Lord the propriety of joining the *College of Physicians at Edinburgh* in the proposed investigation.” (*A partial cry of Hear!*)

LORD HENRY PETTY (no one else rising) concluded the debate.—“Sir, I certainly experience a very great degree of satisfaction in finding the House so *unanimous* as to the *general object in view* from the motion which I have thought it *incumbent* upon *me* to submit to your consideration, and I think that nothing but the lateness of the session should prevent us from coming to some conclusion upon this important subject. Those honourable gentlemen, who have spoken upon this occasion, have distinctly and accurately stated the object I had in view, comprehended in *combining all the weight of scientific knowledge* that could *possibly be obtained*. This end, I think, may be *fully* accomplished by *the inquiry* being *instituted* by that *learned and scientific body*, recognized by the government of this country, under the name of the *Royal College of Physicians* (*A loud cry of Hear!*), and by an ulterior reference of their sentiments to this House through the medium of our committee. (*A second cry of Hear!*)

I cannot, however, agree with an honourable gentleman opposite (Mr. Banks) who has given it as his opinion, that this enquiry will not be one that involves a question of *science*, but merely *a matter of fact*. (*A short cry of Hear!*) Could that honourable gentleman really suppose it possible that any committee of this House can investigate the question in such a manner as to ascertain what is a criterion with respect to the age of the matter to be infused, and how to distinguish the *spurious* from the *genuine* pustule! (a loud cry of *hear! hear!*) I do firmly believe, Sir, that one of the great causes from which its failure has arisen has been the adoption of late matter, and introducing it into the human system instead of that particular description of matter recommended by the learned discoverer himself. (*A cry of Hear!*)

“ I must differ somewhat, too, from another honourable gentleman opposite (Mr. Wilberforce), when he suggests the mode of leaving the whole inquiry to a Committee of the House; must it not occur to every one, that the best method to ascertain with precision, its evil or its beneficial consequences, will be to institute the inquiry by means of Medical Men, as none but such men can rightly judge of these matters. (*A general cry of Hear!*)

“ Could a Committee of the House, unas-

sisted by professional gentlemen, be capable of properly ascertaining the degree of credit which ought to be attached to the *various reports* which have been most industriously circulated abroad, in the *various publications* which have lately appeared? Or is it to be imagined, that a Committee of this House can determine the reality of the assertion in some of these pamphlets, that the Vaccine Matter is apt to produce the worst affections in the human frame? (a general cry of *hear! hear!*) No, it is not in the power of any set of individuals, however *learned* and *experienced* they may be in *other matters*, to *resolve* with accuracy such medical questions without the assistance of *professional men*. (A general cry of *hear!*) I cannot, therefore, entertain a doubt that there are parts of this investigation which may be exceedingly proper for a Committee, and other parts, only for a Medical Body. (*A loud cry of Hear!*)

“ Now, Sir, with respect to annexing the *College of Surgeons* to this inquiry, I hope the House will do me the justice to think that I have before *considered that point*. It was suggested to me *previously to my coming down to the House*, but it occurred to me, that the inquiry ought rather to proceed from *one centre*. (*A dead silence.*)

“ I have no doubt, Sir, but that the *Royal Col-*



*lege of Physicians in London*, being called on by the *unanimous vote of this House*, will be looked up to by the public, with that liberality and those favourable sentiments which are due to them, and that the *College of Physicians*, both in *Scotland* and in *Ireland*, will *correspond* with it, and also the *College of Surgeons* will *communicate* to that learned body every information in their power. (*A general cry of Hear!*) Thus will the *opinions of all the learned and scientific men in the three united kingdoms* be combined, and, together with the *learning and discernment of the Committee*, be comprised in the **REPORT** to be submitted to this House. (*A loud and unceasing cry of Hear!*) We shall then, availing ourselves of such an *accumulated weight of information and evidence*, lay the whole matter *before the public*, in order to *remove their prejudices or confirm their doubts*. (*General approbation.*)

“ Such, Sir, is the mode which appears to me to be the most eligible on this occasion ; and I trust the House will have no hesitation in agreeing *unanimously* with the *motion* which I have this day submitted to them.

“ Before concluding, I cannot help taking notice of one other particular, which has been touched upon in the course of this discussion. It related to the *remuneration* which had been already granted by Parliament to Dr. Jenner,

to whom the world owes this *invaluable* discovery. (*A loud cry of Hear!*)

“As there will certainly be some ulterior proceedings upon this business, it will then become matter of future consideration, whether or not, the reward, formerly conferred upon that learned gentleman, was sufficient, or inadequate, for those great services which he has rendered to mankind, and the great expence he has put himself to in bringing this subject clearly to light.

“If the report shall be favourable towards the successful practice of this discovery, (*as I have no doubt it will be, (A loud cry of Hear!)*) I shall think it my duty to contend on a future day, that the remuneration granted to Dr. Jenner is much more inadequate than it ought to be—(*a general cry of hear! hear!*) On this point, however, there will be ample room for discussion, it being a case which touches the pecuniary concerns of the country, when it will be the duty of every member to state what occurs to him upon such a subject, so those who seem to imagine that the remuneration already conferred is sufficiently ample in every point of view, will have an opportunity of further stating the grounds on which their arguments are founded.”

The motion was then put from the chair, and agreed to *nem. con.*

It was ordered, that the *Address* be presented to his *Majesty*, by such members as were of his Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council.

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## HOUSE OF LORDS.

The EARL of SUFFOLK took occasion to make a few remarks on the above subject. He expressed his happiness at what had taken place with respect to it in the other House of Parliament, which he trusted would tend finally to do away (and to which effect he was ambitious of contributing his mite) those *ill-founded impressions* which obtained against that *useful* and *salutary practice*, originating in certain *scurrilous pamphlets*, and the assertions of *interested individuals*. The practice was grown into extensive use upon the Continent. With respect to *Spain*, (*which was not mentioned in the other House*), particularly, he had the authority of a nobleman of high rank in this country (the Marquis of Bute) to state, that the Vaccine Inoculation was highly esteemed there, and encouraged by the Government, so far, that in all the *Royal Ordonnances* relative to that subject, its worthy



author was styled ‘the *immortal* JENNER!’ He had nothing now to propose, but was so fully impressed with the *importance of the topic*, that he could not avoid thus troubling their Lordships.

FINIS.

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